

Message Text

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12

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /015 W
----- 042110

R 022225Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4012
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 4301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MX

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE ENCOUNTER

REFS: MEXICO 2304, STATE 046054

FOR: STATE CU/ARA; USIA ILA

1. POST HELD RECENT MEETING WITH EDITOR OF PLURAL MAGAZINE AND BUDGET OFFICER REPRESENTING EXCELSIOR NEWSPAPER, OWNER OF PLURAL, TO DISCUSS "LITERATURE ENCuentRO." TENTATIVELY AGREED DATES FOR ENCuentRO WOULD BE A NINE-DAY PERIOD SATURDAY, AUGUST 14 TO SUNDAY, AUGUST 22. US PARTICIPANTS WOULD ARRIVE MEXICO AUGUST 14, REMAIN IN MEXICO CITY UNTIL MORNING AUGUST 16, THEN FLY TO CANCUN TO HOLD SESSIONS THERE. GROUP WOULD RETURN MEXICO CITY SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 AND LEAVE FOR US SUNDAY, AUGUST 22.

2. EXCELSIOR/PLURAL OFFERED FOLLOWING: ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORTATION US-MEXICO FOR THREE TO FIVE US WRITERS. HOTEL AND MEALS FOR UP TO EIGHT US WRITERS IN CAMINO REAL HOTELS IN BOTH MEXICO CITY AND CANCUN FOR TIME WRITERS WILL BE IN MEXICO.

ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORTATION MEXIC CITY-CANCUN FOR ALL WRITERS. SAME ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED MEXICAN WRITERS, PLUS PAYMENT ANY FEES REQUIRED BY LATTER.

3. EMBASSY OFFERED PROVIDE FOLLOWING: ROUND-TRIP
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TRANSPORTATION NEW YORK-MEXICO CITY UP TO THREE

US WRITERS (REQUEST CU PROVIDE AMSPEC GRANT TO COVER); AND SUPPLEMENTARY FEES OR HONORARIA REQUIRED BY USHLRITERS (FROM GOE); SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION SERVICE FOR CONFERENCE (FROM DOE); AND SECRETARIAL SERVICE AT CONFERENCE SITE (FROM DOE).

4. EMBASSY AND EXCELSIOR/PLURAL FURTHER AGREED THAT SPONSORS OF THE ENCUESTRO WOULD BE PLURAL AND FICTION MAGAZINES, A PROPOSAL MADE BY OCTAVIO PAZ, DIRECTOR PLURAL, AND AGREED TO BY MARK MIRSKY ON HIS VISIT TO MEXICO LAST YEAR. EVENT TO BE ANNOUNCED AS SPONSORED BY THE TWO MAGAZINES AND ASSISTED BY EXCELSIOR AND THE BANJAMIN FRANKLIN LIBRARY.

5. PLURAL/EXCELSIOR EMPHATIC THAT SUCCESS OF ENCUESTRO DEPENDS ON LEVEL OF US PARTICIPANTS. MIRSKY HAD RECEIVED ACCEPTANCES FROM BARTH, BARTHELME, HAWKES, SONTAG, CHARUN AND ELKIN FOR ENCUESTRO IN FEBRUARY, WHICH WAS POSTPONED. APPARENT THAT MIRSKY IS CONTINUED APPROPRIATE CONTACT FOR US WRITERS. PLURAL PLANS TO CALL MIRSKY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY RESURRECTING ENCUESTRO IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT PLAN FOR AUGUST. POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT NOT CONTACT MIRSKY UNTIL PAZ HAS A CHANCE TO EXPLORE WHETHER INTEREST IS STILL ALIVE ON PART OF US WRITERS.

6. IF MIRSKY CAN ARRANGE FOR ACCEPTABLE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, POST WOULD REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT IN SELECTING THREE OF THE WRITERS AND OFFERING THEM AMSPEC GRANTS. POST WOULD APPRECIATE ASSURANCE FROM DEPARTMENT THAT THREE GRANTS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. IF PROSPECTIVE GRANTEES OTHERWISE MEET CU CRITERIA, WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT ALL THREE COULD AGREE TO ADDITIONAL TRAVEL IN LATIN AMERICA IN VIEW OF THEIR BUSY SCHEDULES. FOR THIS REASON WE FEEL THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE CONDITION OF GRANT. ADVISE ASAP.
THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO04301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0344
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604104/aaaadlin.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 2304, 76 STATE 46054
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE ENCOUNTER
TAGS: OEXC, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006